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WAYNE R. REYNOLDS  
Managing DirectorTO: Academy members and friends  
FROM: Brian and Wayne Reynolds  
SUBJECT: 1980 Banquet "Progress Report" #3

June 7, 1980

Announcing more guests of honor for the 1980 Salute to Excellence weekend at Los Angeles ...July 10-12...culminating with the Banquet of the Golden Plate on Saturday evening, July 12, at the Bonaventure Hotel...and highlighted by the very special outing on the evening of Friday, July 11...at the 16-million-dollar Hilton estate in Bel Air:

- Henry Winkler -- star...as "The Fonz"...of the "Happy Days" television series.
- Darrell Griffith -- "the greatest collegiate basketball player in America"...extolled in a cover story by Sports Illustrated as "The Great Griffith"...and hailed by Newsweek as "The Dazzling Dr. Dunk" -- a Louisville lad who "started shooting baskets, when he was eight, in a dirt alley behind the house"...played in summer league competition by the time he was in the eighth grade, against professional stars...then became, as a high school wiz, "one of the most sought-after athletes in the country"...and went on to spark his team, this year, to the national collegiate championship...with a "wondrous" exhibition..."leading an aerial attack late in the game...the airborne magician went into his act...the gifted shotmaker outjumped the world...performing 4-foot leaps and 360-degree dunks"...to earn the affectionate admiration of the basketball world...and his place in NCAA history...as "Louisville's living legend."
- Dr. Elwood V. Jenson, Director of the Ben May Laboratory, University of Chicago -- very recently announced as the recipient of the \$100,000 Kettering Prize, presented by the General Motors Cancer Research Foundation...for the "discovery of the mode of action of estrogen in target tissues and recognition of the predictive value of estrogen receptor measurements in human breast cancer, which is the most common malignancy of women in the Western world."
- His Excellency Kenneth D. Taylor, Ambassador of Canada to Iran...Ottawa -- the internationally acclaimed hero...and recipient of the United States Congressional Gold Medal...for his leadership and "selfless courage" in the hiding...and later escape ...of six American diplomats from the grasp of the Iranian revolutionaries in Tehran.
- Norman Lear... "one of the most innovative and influential producers in television history" -- creator of many of TV's greatest hit shows...over the past decade...including "All In The Family," "Sanford and Son," "Maude," "Good Times," "The Jeffersons" and "One Day At A Time," plus the "outrageous and memorable" "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman" ...he brings laughter weekly to 120,000,000 Americans...more than half of the nation.

(more)

A non-profit, tax-exempt organization, dedicated to the inspiration of Youth--to raise their sights high; to excel in their endeavors--through the dramatic annual salute...at the Banquet of the Golden Plate...

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- **Bobby Lee Cook...** hailed as "one of America's six greatest murder defense attorneys" ... Summerville, Georgia -- the son of a country store owner, this "small-town lawyer" who travels 50,000 miles a year ... many of them in his chauffered silver-and-blue Rolls Royce ... has, with meticulous preparation, "got his clients off in about 90 percent of the 250 murder cases he has tried since 1949" ... earning acclamation by People magazine: "He goes for the jugular and he can make a prosecutor take a position he can't defend. His skill and ability are such that he can do it with a scalpel or a sledgehammer; be like a slow-moving stream or a raging current; be quiet, then ferocious; put a witness to sleep or throw him out the window. He places the well-being of his client before anything else. If the Devil ever needed a defense, Bobby Lee Cook would take the case."
- **Dr. Carl Djerassi,** Professor of Chemistry at Stanford University -- a summa cum laude college graduate at age 19 ... who earned his Ph.D. by the time he was 21 ... then, by age 25, began an "era of his life that was to bring him worldwide recognition for his leadership of the research team that synthesized the first oral contraceptive pill ... one of the great medical breakthroughs of all time" ... and, by age 28, "had played a key role in the development of cortisone" ... this distinguished and extraordinary trail-blazer ... author of 900 articles on steroids, antibiotics, alkaloids, terpenoids, optical rotatory dispersion, and mass spectrometry ... is the recipient of the National Medal of Science ... the "highest honor America bestows upon its scientific pioneers."
- **R. David Thomas,** Founder and Chairman of Wendy's International, Inc. ... with global headquarters at Dublin, Ohio -- a recipient of the 1979 Horatio Alger Award, his "story-book" rise from "rags to riches," reports Fortune magazine, "would have even made Horatio Alger blink": He was adopted at the age of six weeks, but his new mother died only six years later. His adopted father was forced to move from job to job and city to city. Meantime, the boy "worked so hard at part-time jobs that he couldn't stay awake in school, and dropped out after the tenth grade." Young Thomas took a room at the YMCA when his "father" moved away to a new job. David landed a job as a busboy to launch his restaurant career. He worked his way to the Vice Presidency ... later bought a Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise ... and then became the chain's regional director of operations. Finally, in downtown Columbus, he opened his first Wendy's restaurant ... naming it after his freckle-faced daughter ... and spearheaded its growth in ten years to an empire with 1,800 stores and annual sales nearing one billion dollars.
- **Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross...** Swiss-born psychiatrist ... famed for her "innovative and compassionate" work with dying patients ... and chosen recently by the Ladies Home Journal as "Woman of the Decade" in Science and Research -- an "inspiring Renaissance woman" ... doctor/scientist/writer/wife/mother ... author of the 1969 revolutionary book, "On Death and Dying" ... and the more recent "To Live Until We Say Goodby" ... she was "catapulted to world renown as the pioneering authority on the psychological aspects of death" ... and acclaimed by Human Behavior magazine in its feature, "The Miracle of Dr. Kubler-Ross, "for her continuing research which has "led her on a fascinating personal and professional journey" that has "carried her beyond the moment of death as we now define it and into the realm of the afterlife..."
- **Lawrence Welk, Santa Monica, California** -- star for the past 25 years of his own celebrated TV show.
- **Henry W. Bloch, Co-Founder/President/Chief Executive of H&R Block...** headquartered at Kansas City -- creator of an empire which has grown "from one office in 1955 which prepared a few hundred returns to America's largest tax service ... with 8,500 offices which last year did over ten million income tax returns."
- **Maxie Anderson, Albuquerque, New Mexico** -- capturing the world's fancy two years ago ... as part of a daring trio that was the "first to balloon across the Atlantic" ... he most recently completed another historic flight ... as the "first balloonist to cross North America nonstop" ... using oxygen masks and enduring temperatures 32 degrees below zero.

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- Donald R. Seawell, Publisher/Chairman/President of The Denver Post -- a descendant of three generations of North Carolina Supreme Court Justices...former U.S. Army counter-intelligence member of General Eisenhower's London command...his career in international corporate law and theatrical production led him to a new challenge in the mile-high city...where he has become an outstanding civic and business leader...spotlighted in a recent Newsweek essay as the catalyst in the creation of the spectacular Denver Center for the Performing Arts...perhaps "the last of the super cultural centers" ... "a prismatic structure of concrete and glass that looks out over the Rocky Mountains"...and is heralded as a dramatic and beautiful "melange of art and architecture" that has become "Denver's Crown Jewel."
- Winton M. Blount; Chairman/President/and Chief Executive of Blount, Inc...at Montgomery, Alabama ... President of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States in 1968, Postmaster General of the United States from 1969 until 1971 -- a "distinguished statesman and industrialist" who began as a highway contractor and now heads an international construction firm with half-a-billion-dollars in annual sales...he is an "effective leader" in other business and professional organizations...has enthusiastically served his fellow man in civic, educational, and religious organizations...has strived tirelessly to strengthen the political system of his state and country...and has served as an articulate champion of the free enterprise system...to truly exemplify the "All-American" citizen.
- Dr. Maarten Schmidt, Hale Observatories and California Institute of Technology...and Dr. Jesse L. Greenstein, Chairman of the Department of Astronomy at Cal Tech -- two of the most eminent astronomers in the world of science...most noted for "deciphering the cryptic quasars...the powerful radio sources that each emit fantastic energy of a hundred large galaxies."
- Carl Karcher, Founder and Chairman of the Carl's Jr. Restaurants...headquartered at Anaheim, Calif. -- launching his business with a single hot dog cart in 1941, he sparked its expansion into "one of the most successful restaurant chains in the nation"...and was presented with the 1980 Horatio Alger Award.

The Academy's 19th annual "gathering of the greats" will be enhanced by the participation of more than 325 honor youths from all of the 50 states, including 30 national champions of America's most prestigious "open" competitions for high school students, and eight super young scholars in their pre-teens with "genius" IQs.

Two of the "whiz kids" recently made their mark in scholastic and collegiate history:

- 12-year-old Burt Totaro...with a perfect 800 on the math part of his college board "S.A.T." score... was accepted recently by Princeton University as "the youngest full time student in its history."
- 12-year-old Li-Hsien ("Lily") Rin...who scored 790 out of a possible 800 on the math part of her S.A.T., and 760 out of a possible 800 on the verbal part...recently was designated by Johns Hopkins University as the Grand Award Winner of its 1980 Talent Search.

Danny Scholl -- America's 1970 "Handicapped American of the Year" and a recipient that year of the Academy's Golden Plate Award -- is recovering from the stroke that prevented his re-joining us last June at Salt Lake City...and will be with us at Los Angeles in July, particularly to play a special role in the closing of the Banquet of the Golden Plate ceremonies.

Hanns Kornell...one of our 1978 guests of honor...has renewed his generosity of a year ago, and will gift the Academy with 15 cases of his award-winning champagne for the 1980 Salute program.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars national headquarters, Ernest Hahn, DeWitt Wallace, and Coca-Cola are the most generous sponsors...from throughout the nation...of honor students to the Academy weekend.